

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION SECTION
HELENA, MONTANA

JOB COMPLETION REPORT
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

State of Montana Name Northwestern Montana Fishery Study
Project No. F-24-D-3 Title Statewide Lake & Stream Rehabilitation -
Milnor Lake

Period Covered: May 1, 1958 to March 30, 1959

Abstract: An aerial type spray was applied by a helicopter on August 21, 1958. Carp, pumpkinseed sunfish and large mouth black bass were killed in the lake. Two overnight gill net sets were made on February 17, 1959, and no fish were caught.

Objectives: The objective was to eliminate the population of carp and pumpkinseed sunfish and develop a trout fishery.

Techniques Used: S. B. Penick and Co. furnished a toxicant that could be aerially applied, and at no cost to the Department. On August 21, 1958, toxicant was sprayed on the lake by a helicopter. A total of 250 gallons of aerial fish toxicant was used. Application was started at 7:00 A.M. and was completed by 11:00 A.M. It took more time to fill the helicopter with toxicant than it took to spray the liquid. No water was mixed with the toxicant.

Bass and sunfish were seined the day previous to application of toxicant and placed in live cars. However, by the morning of application, most of these fish were dead, probably due to too much handling by local youngsters swimming in the lake.

Findings: The sunfish and bass were killed shortly after the first spray-run on the lake. Carp were in distress before all the toxicant was applied.

The following species of fish were killed in the lake:

Large mouth black bass (Micropterus salmoides)
Pumpkinseed sunfish (Lepomis gibbosus)
Carp (Cyprinus carpio)

Local residents reported fish breaking surface water several months after application of the toxicant. Two overnight sets were made with 125 foot sampling gill nets on February 17, 1959, and no fish were caught.

Recommendations: It is recommended that this lake be sampled periodically to determine whether a complete kill was obtained. Since no spawning

area is present for trout, it is further recommended that this lake be planted every year.

Prepared by: Frank A. Stefanich Approved by *Gerge D. Holton*
Date: March 16, 1959